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Extract of a Letter from Count Colloredo Governour of the Milaneze, to the Earl of Stair, His Majesty's Ambassadour at the Court of France.

Milan, August 12. N. S.

I Have received from General Zumjungen a Letter dated the 24th of July from the Camp before Messina, in which he acquaints me, that he had decamped from Francavilla without the Loss of one Man, the Enemy not daring to make the least Motion to incommode his Rear Guard: That in his March he had taken la Forza and St. Alessio, very advantageous Posts, and left Garrisons in them: That he had not thought proper to stop to take Scaletta, but advanced to Messina: That the Inhabitants of Messina had at first shewn some Inclination to submit to him, but having been earnestly pressed by the Governour to hold out, and having received from Palermo a Supply of Provisions, of which they were in extreme Want, they pretended to make Resistance: That he was preparing to bombard the Town, in case they should remain on the Defensive; but was of Opinion they would not obstinately persist: That the Generals Count Wallis, and the Prince of Hesse, were carrying on the Attack of Castle Gonzaga: And that General Mercy was expected from Reggio to resume the Command of the Army.

From the Camp before the Castle of St. Sebastian, August 17, N.S. On the 11th Instant 750 French, among them two Companies of Grenadiers, commanded by the Chevalier de Givery, Major-General, and M. la Motte, Brigadier, were imbarked at Port Passage, on several Transports, under the Convoy of Captain Johnson, commanding the British Men of War, which have their Station on this Coast; and Collonel Stanhope, His Britannick Majesty's Envoy, went on Board, to be present in an Enterprize designed on San Antonio. They set Sail that Afternoon, and the next Evening arrived before San Antonio. The Harbour being narrow at the Entrance, and having Breastworks cast up from thence along the Sides to the Town, with near 50 Pieces of Cannon placed upon them, it was thought advisable not to attempt going into it, but rather to endeavour to land upon the Back of it in a sandy Bay to the Westward of the Harbour. Upon getting thither it was seen the Enemy had raised two Batteries, behind which they had about 600 Men drawn up to oppose the Landing of Troops. The Cannon of the British Ships fired upon them for some Time, as the Batteries did also upon the Ships, to which they did no other Damage than the tearing two or three of the Sails. That Place being at the Bottom of the Bay of Biscay where the Sea constantly runs high, there were very great Swells, which made the Waves break with Violence upon the Shore: However, at Six a Clock it was determined to put the Troops into the Boats, and try if it was possible to land them there; but when they were got near the Shore it was judged extremely hazardous, if not impracticable; they therefore put off again, and went about a Mile further to the West into another lesser Bay where the Sea appeared to be somewhat smoother. The Enemy not expecting them in that Place, the Forces immediately landed without Opposition or Loss, except of four or five Seamen drowned, and three Boats overset, all the Officers and Soldiers getting safe ashore. It being then almost dark, they immediately made themselves Masters of the Top of a Hill, which is covered with thick Wood and lies between the two Bays, where they remained all that Night; and at Break of Day on the 13th they marched down, in Number 750 French, and about 200 English Seamen, to the first mentioned Bay, where they saw no Enemy appear, the Batteries being abandoned, which they immediately took Possession of. Whilst they were there, the Magistrates of the Town came to make their Submission, telling them they would meet with no sort of Opposition, for that the Militia and some Companies of Invalids, which had appeared the Night before, were all dispersed, and had left even the Forts upon the Harbour without one Man to defend them. From thence the Forces marched through the Town streight to the Harbour, where were in two Forts and upon the Mole 47 Pieces of Cannon all loaded, which were destroyed by bursting a great Part, and nailing the rest. Then the Forces went to the Ship-Yards, where lay on the Stocks three Men of War, one of 70 Guns, the other two of 60 Guns each; the first was decked and wanted very little to be launched, the other two were not altogether so forward, though they were quite built up but not decked. These three Ships were intirely burnt to the very ground by the English Seamen; they also burnt a vast quantity of the finest Planks newly brought from Holland, sufficient for what could be employed in the Building of five or six Men of War. There were also a great many Barrels of Pitch and Tar, which with some other Naval Stores were burnt, in order to set on fire a great Quantity of fine Timber that was provided for the Building of more Ships. Having thus effectually executed what was proposed by this Expedition, the Forces imbarked again the same Evening, and arrived here at the Camp last Night, with no other Loss than what is above-mentioned. Collonel Stanhope finding it necessary to encourage and animate Troops which had not been used to Enterprizes by Sea, was the first that leaped into the Water when the Boats approached the Shore. Captain Johnson and the other Commanders of the British Men of War, were very zealous and active on this Occasion. In the River of San Antonio were found two Dutch Ships lately come thither, one loaded with Powder, which had been sent to Pampelona, and the other had brought Naval Stores; Men were sent on board them, but found nothing, every thing having been landed some Days before. As to the Siege of the Castle of St. Sebastian, such Difficulties were found in it, as it was judged, would have inevitably rendered it very tedious; and therefore the Marshal Berwick had actually resolved to turn it into a Blockade: But this Afternoon we were agreeably surprized with the Governour of the Castle's offering to capitulate: The Articles are already settled, by which all Marks of Honour are granted to the Garrison; and the Prince de Soubize is dispatched to the Court of France with the News of the surrender of the Castle.

Victualling-Office, August 4.

The Commissioners for Victualling His Majesty's Navy give Notice, That on the following Days in the Forenoon, they shall be ready to receive Proposals, and treat with such Persons as are inclineable to furnish Oxen and Hogs at the several Ports hereafter mentioned, for the Service of His Majesty's Navy, viz. On Monday the 21st of September for London and Plymouth, on Wednesday the 23d of September for Portsmouth and Dover.

Whereas frequent Abuses have been committed upon the Cross-Roads between Exeter, Chester, Shrewsbury, Bristol and Oxford, by the Riding Boys, or others, who feloniously open the Mail, and take out Letters, altering the Bill and Charge: This is therefore to give Notice to all Merchants, Tradesmen, or others, not to receive any Post Letters of any Person but such who are authorised and employed by the several Post-Masters on the said Cross Roads, to carry and deliver Letters; and all other Persons who shall offer to deliver Letters and demand Postage, to apprehend or cause to be apprehended, that they may be brought to Justice for such villainous Practice, which is not only a lessening of the Revenue, but infinitely prejudicial to all Persons corresponding by Post Letters.

The Receivers of the two Lotteries for 300,000l. each, give Notice, That the Tickets are ready to be delivered out at the Bank of England. And whereas the Commissioners for drawing the said Lotteries have finished the Rolling up of the Tickets, and the Time for drawing is near at hand, the Proprietors in the said Lotteries are desired forthwith to take out the said Tickets, for that after